

METALLICA: THROUGH THE NEVER
By Lorraine Viade, Psy.D.



Metallica – yes, the metal band – has one of the most amazing movies coming out next week. In IMAX, this film is a musical and visual assault on the senses. It is an outrageous experience from beginning to end with so much raw emotion and violent images that barrage you like a sawed off shotgun. You may be stunned, but you keep your eyes wide open looking at every gory detail, only to find the perverse beauty in the rage around you. That is what makes this film so special.

It is not offensive, at least not when you consider what it is. *Through the Never* is to the eyes what the music is to the ears. And even if you are not a fan of the music, you cannot help but marvel at the effects and the images that play so loudly against the drumbeats and the guitar riffs. I am not generally a fan of metal music, but I am a fan of this film. As I allowed myself to embrace the savagery of the lyrics, it enabled me to fully observe the destruction without being horrified. Fascination replaced fear, curiosity replaced revulsion, and I understood what the music is all about. There are few places where pent up rage is safely expressed. There is enough rage in the world to destroy it and perhaps having an outlet for our own inner turmoil is a good thing, albeit disturbing. As art, *Through the Never* succeeds in reminding us that all things can have beauty. That is as frightening as it is exhilarating.

The music was classic Metallica and *Through the Never* is the name of their upcoming album. That is as much as I will tell you. You have to experience it for yourself if you dare. However, please be warned that the images in this film would be truly unsettling to those who cannot tolerate violent images. For those who like to visit the dark side of things, this will not disappoint you. Visually this is one of the best films I have ever seen. I gained a new appreciation for the music of Metallica and look forward to hearing their new work. One of the things I have learned over time is that pretending that bad things don't happen doesn't make them go away. Understanding the darkness might be the only way to get through the never.

This film is as in your face as it gets in illustrating what we are capable of and what we will do to survive the inner workings of our own minds. Surreal and ethereal, *Through the Never* will leave lasting impressions that in the end are more life affirming than destroying. In the end, it is all about survival and Metallica has proven that they are survivors. Ironically, there is a sense of safety in their lyrics that comes from the sheer honesty of the emotion. Good, bad or ugly – it is what it is, and it is brilliant. If you are a fan of the band or just a fan of great filmmaking, check it out.

I give *Metallica: Through the Never* five guitars.

